

What is claimed:

1. A method for executing a business process, comprising:  
obtaining an entity model representative of an entity to which a task  
5 associated with said business process can be assigned;  
obtaining a work model representative of a task to be assigned to said  
entity; and  
assigning said task to said entity based on said entity model and said work  
model to thereby carry out said business process.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said entity is selected from the group  
consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a device, a software, a  
company, an association, and a country.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said entity model is obtained by selecting  
an entity template from a plurality of available entity templates, each of said  
plurality of available entity templates associated with an entity to which a task  
can be assigned.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said entity model is obtained by creating  
said entity model.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said creating includes generating a record, assigning an entity identification to the record, and inputting an attribute to the record, said attribute representative of a characteristic of said entity.

5 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said entity model is obtained by retrieving said entity model from a data base.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said work model is obtained by selecting a task template from a plurality of available task templates, each of said plurality of  
10 task templates associated with a task that can be assigned to an entity.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein each of the available task templates includes an instruction for performing a task.

15 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said work model is obtained by creating said work model.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said creating comprises inputting one or more tasks to be performed by an entity.

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11. The method of claim 9, wherein said creating comprises inputting an instruction for performing a task.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said work model is obtained by retrieving said work model from a data base.

5 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a business process model using said entity model and said work model.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said creating said business process model comprises constructing a flow chart, said flow chart having at least one  
10 work step.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said at least one work step represents said task that is to be assigned to said entity.

15 16. The method of claim 1, wherein said assigning is performed by a software or a human.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising collecting data associated with work performed by said entity.

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18. The method of claim 17, further comprising comparing said data with data associated with a previously created business process.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising optimizing said business process based on said comparing.

5 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising creating a business process model using said entity model and said work model, wherein said creating said business process model comprises constructing a flow chart, said flow chart having a work step, and said optimizing comprising substituting said work step with a previously created work step.

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21. The method of claim 19, wherein said optimizing comprises substituting said work model with a previously created work model.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising adopting said optimized  
15 business process as a standard.

23. A method for optimizing a business process, comprising:  
collecting a first set of data associated with an execution of a first business process model representative of a first business process;  
20 searching a data base for a second business process model representative of a second business process; and

comparing said first set of data with a second set of data associated with  
said second business process.

24. The process of claim 23, wherein said first business process model  
5 includes a first plurality of work steps, and said searching comprises finding a  
business process model that has same or similar work steps as those associated  
with said first business process model.

25. The process of claim 23, wherein said first business process model has a  
10 first model identification, and said searching comprises finding a business  
process model that has a same or a similar model identification as that of said  
first business process model.

26. The process of claim 23, wherein said process further comprises  
15 optimizing either or both of said first and the second business processes based  
at least in part on said comparing.

27. The process of claim 26, wherein said first business process is optimized,  
and said second business process is not optimized.

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28. The process of claim 26, wherein said second business process is  
optimized, and said first business process is not optimized.

29. A method for optimizing a business process involving a performance of a task, said method comprising:

- obtaining data associated with performance of said task;
- 5 comparing said data with data associated with previously created business process; and
- automatically determining an optimized business process based at least on said comparing.

10 30. The method of claim 29, wherein said data is selected from the group consisting of cost of performing said task, time required to perform said task, and number of persons involved in performing said task.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein said automatically determining is  
15 performed using a software or a device.

32. A computer product having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, the process comprising providing an entity template representative of an entity to which a task associated with a  
20 business process can be assigned.

33. The computer product of claim 32, wherein said process further comprises providing a work template representative of a task which can be assigned to said entity.

5 34. The computer product of claim 33, wherein said process further comprises assigning said task to said entity.

35. The computer product of claim 32, wherein said entity is selected from the group consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a device, a  
10 software, a company, an association, and a country.

36. A computer product having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, said process comprising providing a user interface for allowing a user to create an entity model representative of an  
15 entity to which a task associated with a business process can be assigned.

37. The computer product of claim 36, wherein said process further comprises providing a user interface for allowing a user to create a work model representative of a task that can be assigned to said entity.

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38. The computer product of claim 37, wherein said process further comprises assigning said task to said entity.

39. The computer product of claim 36, wherein said entity is selected from the group consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a processor, a software, a company, an association, and a country.

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40. A computer product having a set of stored instructions, the execution of which causes a process to be performed, said process comprising:

collecting a first set of data associated with an execution of a first business process model representative of a first business process;

10        searching a data base for a second business process model representative of a second business process; and

comparing said first set of data with a second set of data associated with said second business process.

15    41. The computer product of claim 40, wherein said first business process model includes a first plurality of work steps, and said searching comprises finding a business process model that has same or similar work steps as those associated with said first business process model.

20    42. The computer product of claim 40, wherein said first business process model has a first model identification, and said searching comprises finding a

business process model that has a same or a similar model identification as that of said first business process model.

43. The computer product of claim 40, wherein said process further comprises  
5 optimizing either or both of said first and the second business processes based at least in part on said comparing.

44. The computer product of claim 43, wherein said first business process is optimized, and said second business process is not optimized.

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45. The computer product of claim 43, wherein said second business process is optimized, and said first business process is not optimized.

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46. A system for business process automation and optimization, comprising:  
a business process creation module for allowing a user to create a  
business model, said business process model having one or more work steps;  
and

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a business process execution and monitoring module configured to assign one or more tasks to one or more entities based on said business process model.

47. The system of claim 46, further comprising a business process analysis and optimization module for optimizing a business process based on data collected from execution of said one or more tasks.

5 48. The system of claim 46, further comprising a business process simulation module for checking said business process model for errors.

49. The system of claim 46, wherein said one or more entities are selected from the group consisting of a person, a group of persons, a machine, a device, a  
10 software, a company, an association, and a country.